GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3018
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
REPORT OF NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMMISSION
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended in its report that there is a need to reform the Government modalities instead of bureaucracy by redesigning the Government process;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has accepted the said recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V.RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) : In its recommendations on e-Governance submitted to the Prime Minister on 26th January, 2006, the National Knowledge Commission has proposed that Government process reengineering be undertaken before any computerization.

(b): At present the e-Governance efforts are primarily based on computerizing age-old processes left behind by British Raj and compounded by a plethora of new layers and silos by Indian bureaucracy, each working within departmental boundaries and pet-priorities. As a result we are computerizing cumbersome processes and hence not commensurately benefiting from it. Simply digitizing the existing government processes merely adds an additional layer of expense, complexity, delay and confusion. It is essential that we first redesign the government processes keeping the citizen at the centre, providing hassle-free enablement of citizens, business, producers and consumers, replacing the old mistrust and control regime from the British Raj. This redesigning of government processes will drastically reduce the numbers and duration of successive steps required to obtain services. It will also provide traceable records; enable enforcement of individual performance, accountability, efficiency , productivity as well as transparency of policies and processes.

(c) to (e) : These recommendations were considered by the Committee of Secretaries in the background of the Cabinet Note on Approach and Key Components of National e- Governance Plan (NeGP). Suggestions of the Committee of Secretaries were suitably incorporated in the revised Cabinet Note, which was considered and approved by the Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 18th May, 2006. The scope of the approval covers Vision, Approach, 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) & 8 Support Components, Assigning of Roles & Responsibilities and Programme Management Structure required for the Implementation of NeGP.

As per the approval, concerned line Ministries/Departments/State Governments are expected to prepare detailed project documents for their respective Mission Mode Projects, including scope of the project in terms of Services and Service levels that would be made available; Government Process Reengineering, Legal amendments and Change Management that is necessary to achieve the desired service levels; and the Financial details for obtaining approval of the competent authority as per the existing provisions of General Financial Rules.